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REFERENCE:

ATTACHMENT TO L-2157
21 OCTOBER 1966
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LOW-HEAD HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT/IRRIGATION DAM
TIEU COC, NORTH VIETNAM
2022N 10609E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED LOW-HEAD HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER PLANT AND IRRIGATION DAM.

2. LOCATION:

THIS DAM IS LOCATED NEAR THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF TIEU COC, THREE NM SOUTH-SOUTHWEST OF NAM DINH, ON THE NAM DINH GIANG AT 20-22-40N 106-09-30E (UTM XH207536).

3. BACKGROUND:

ALLIED AIRSTRIKES AGAINST THE ELECTRIC POWER BASE OF NORTH VIETNAM HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASED THE NATIONAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY. AS OF JUNE 1966, THE TOTAL ESTIMATED CAPACITY OF 140,000 KILOWATTS (KW) REPRESENTED A NET LOSS OF 35,000 KW; 47,000 KW HAD BEEN ELIMINATED BY AIRSTRIKES, BUT A 12,000-KW PLANT HAD BEEN PLACED IN OPERATION. NORTH VIETNAMESE LEADERS EVIDENTLY ANTICIPATE FURTHER AIRSTRIKES AGAINST THEIR ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY AND HAVE REEVALUATED THE ENTIRE POWER PLANT CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM. AS A RESULT, CONSTRUCTION OF LARGE POWER PLANTS HAS BEEN DEEMPHASIZED IN FAVOR OF SMALL HYDROELECTRIC STATIONS AND THE ADDITIONAL USE OF MOBILE GENERATORS.

THE REGIME CURRENTLY IS IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING SUBSTITUTE

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ELECTRIC ENERGY SOURCES. ECONOMIC PLANNERS IN NORTH VIETNAM CAN RELATE THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES TO THE KOREAN CONFLICT AND REALIZE THAT ELECTRIC POWER SUPPORT TO INDUSTRY MAY MAKE NECESSARY THE USE OF SMALL SCATTERED FACILITIES. DURING THE KOREAN CONFLICT SOME INDUSTRY WAS DISPERSED, BUT THE DECENTRALIZED INDUSTRIES WERE STILL HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON CENTRALIZED PRINCIPAL POWER PLANTS AND SUFFERED SHORTAGE OF ELECTRICITY WHEN THESE WERE ATTACKED.

A SUBSTITUTE ELECTRIC POWER BASE SERVING SPECIFIC CONSUMERS IS BEING DEVELOPED. IT CONSISTS OF VERY SMALL HYDROELECTRIC STATIONS AND PORTABLE DIESEL AND THERMAL STATIONS. THE TYPE OF HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT IS AN EXTREMELY RUDIMENTARY STRUCTURE, INCORPORATING A SMALL EARTH DAM, AND GENERATING EQUIPMENT. THESE STATIONS WOULD HAVE INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES OF 50 KW AND LESS. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE DOMESTIC EXPERIENCE IN BUILDING SMALL HYDROELECTRIC PLANTS AND THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY SEVENTY-FIVE SUCH FACILITIES IN OPERATION, HAVING A COMBINED CAPACITY OF ABOUT 1,000 KW.

4. MISSION READOUT:

[REDACTED] REVEALS THAT THE IRRIGATION CONTROL COMPONENT OF THE DAM APPEARS TO BE COMPLETED. NO SWITCHING YARD IS OBSERVED IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA, HOWEVER AN EIGHT STRAND TRANSMISSION LINE IS OBSERVED IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF THE DAM. THE DAM CONSISTS OF A GENERATOR HALL/PUMPING STATION WITH FOREBAY, AN INTAKE GATE, AND TWO

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BY-PASS GATES. APPARENTLY AN ATTEMPT IS BEING MADE TO CAMOUFLAGE THE
DAM AND CANAL THROUGH THE USE OF BAMBOO SECTIONS MADE INTO A FLOATING
FRAMEWORK, WITH VEGETATION PLACED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK.

UTM COORDINATES TAKEN FROM AMS SERIES L7014, SHEET 6249 IV.

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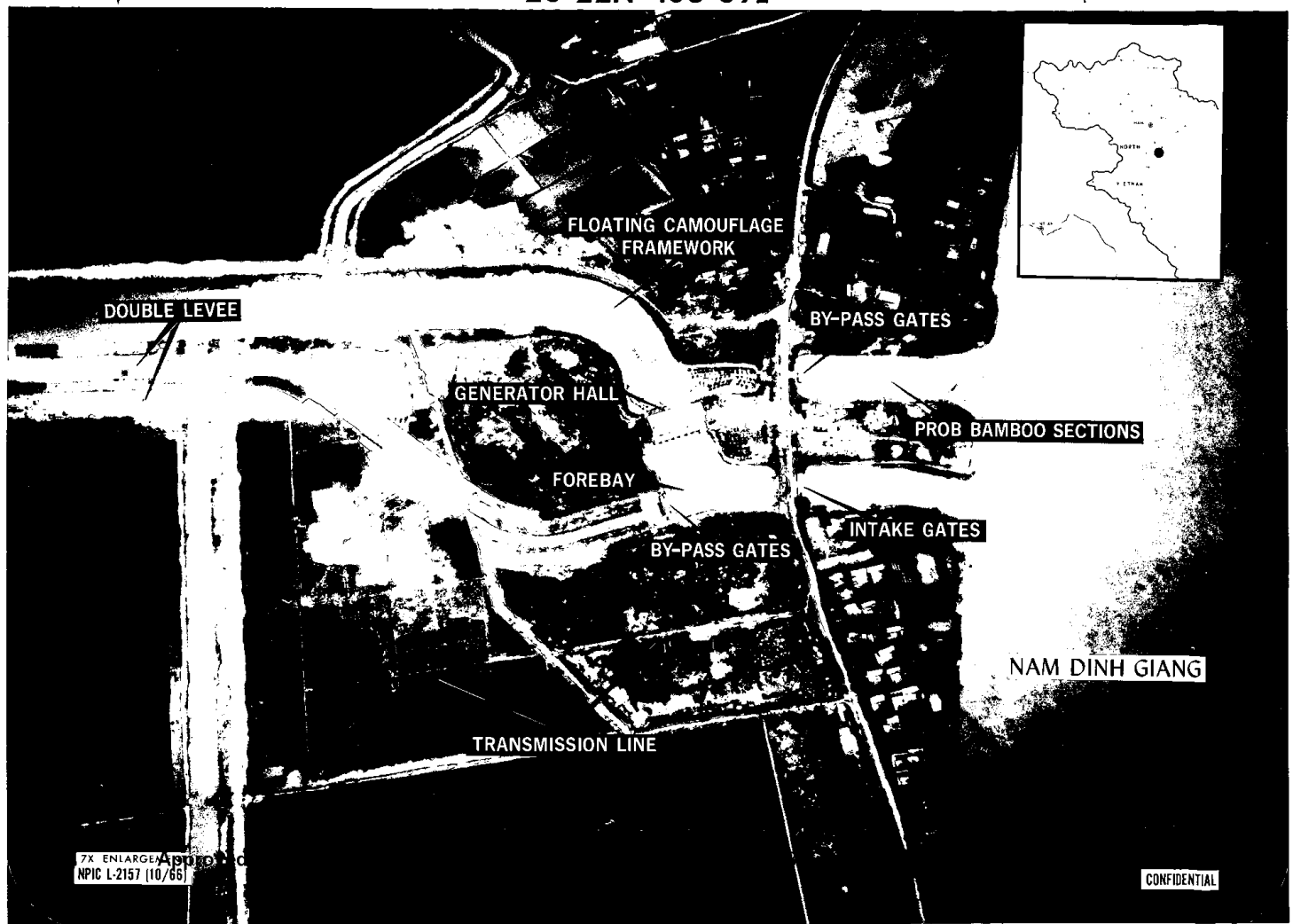
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LOW HEAD HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT/IRRIGATION DAM
TIEU COC, NORTH VIETNAM
20-22N 106-09E



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